

Washington State Library

The people's library since 1853

The State Library is the State's equivalent to the Library of Congress. It preserves and makes accessible the history of Washington State.

The State Library benefits almost every person in the state. The State Library:

- Provides the public, researchers, genealogists, historians and policymakers with **unique collections** in history, genealogy and government. Many of the Library's resources are available nowhere else.
- **Loans its resources to citizens** directly and through their local libraries. The State Library issued 1,198 new library cards to the general public in 2002. 14,535 books, documents and microforms were checked out or used onsite by citizens.
- Saves local public and school libraries over **\$8 million dollars** per year. The State Library coordinates statewide joint purchasing agreements for **online, full-text access** to over 2000 magazines.
- Provides **blind and vision-impaired people** with books on tape, Braille, and other services through the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library, a partnership with Seattle Public Library. Provides library services to people in **mental hospitals and prisons**.
- Offers the public easy access to **government and consumer protection information** through the nationally award-winning **Find-It! Washington**, (<http://find-it.wa.gov>) and **Find-It! Consumer**. (<http://finditconsumer.wa.gov>)
- Answers over **14,000 questions** per year from the public and decision makers on Washington government and history.

Under the Governor's proposed budget:

- Collections are maintained but **access is virtually eliminated**.
- **Local libraries lose access** to specialized collections available nowhere else.
- Reductions in state funds put **federal funds** for school and public libraries at risk.
- **Reference staff is virtually eliminated** for the public.